

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on Page 72, line 7 as follows:

Fig. 44 shows an isometric view of the locking washer 800. The locking washer 800 has an opening 810 in the body 805 that is dimensioned to fit over the proximal post 230 of the fixation element 200. The locking washer 800 also has an anti-rotation feature 820 that mates with either the superior facet prosthesis 300 or the inferior facet prosthesis 400 or a combination of both the inferior facet prosthesis 400 and the superior facet prosthesis 400. The anti-rotation feature 820 shown in this embodiment is a flat surface, however, any feature that would rotationally constrain the locking washer 800 to the other components of the implant (such as a tab, groove, taper or other geometric shape) can be formed on the washer as a anti-rotation feature 820. The locking washer 800 also has prongs 830 that pass into the bone tissue of vertebra 100 to help stabilize the implant construct. The prongs in this embodiment of the locking washer 800 are elongated protrusions that taper to a tissue penetration tip 840. The prongs have sidewalls 850 that provide a surface to resist torsion once the locking washer 800 penetrates the bone tissue. The prongs 830 may also be simple spikes that are either symmetrical or nonsymmetrical in cross-section that protrude from the locking washer body 805. The shape and length of the locking washer prongs 830 is dependent on how the locking washer is used. The prongs 830 of the locking washer 800 that holds only one of the inferior facet prosthesis 400 or the superior facet prosthesis 300 to the vertebra 100 may be shorter than the prongs 830 of the locking washer 800 that holds both the inferior facet prosthesis 400 and the superior facet prosthesis 300 to the vertebra 100.